

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 181576

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ORIGIN EUR-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CODEL, BEXP, BU

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SOFIA/PLOVDIV

REF: SOFIA 1526

WE APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THE PROBLEM YOU HAVE WITH THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S INSISTENCE ON ITS HOST FUNCTION.
THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THIS DIFFICULTY HAS ARISEN IN
EASTERN EUROPE. AS PUZZLING AS IT MAY SOUND TO BULGARIAN
EARS, THOUGH, THE U.S. CONGRESS IS TRULY NOT IN A
POSITION TO RECIPROCATATE THE KIND OF HOSPITALITY THE
BULGARIANS AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEANS ARE PRONE TO
EXTEND SO GENEROUSLY. THERE ARE ORGANIZATIONAL, FINANCIAL
AND EVEN LEGAL BARRIERS AT THIS END, WHICH IS WHY WE
MUST INSIST THAT U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES PAY THEIR
OWN WAY. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, CONCLUDED THAT SOME PARTIAL
IV GRANT ASSISTANCE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO BONEV AND
PERHAPS TWO OTHERS TO HELP COVER SOME OF THEIR COSTS IF
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PAGE 02 STATE 181576

THEY COME TO THE U.S. THEY WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE CON-

SIDERED GUESTS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS. UNDER THIS ARRANGEMENT BULGARIANS, JUST AS U.S. CONGRESSMEN IN BULGARIA, WOULD COVER BULK OF THEIR COSTS IN U.S., SUCH AS HOTEL, MEALS AND DOMESTIC TRAVEL. CU COULD PROVIDE FUNDS FOR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IN CITIES VISITED. (FYI THIS WAS

FORMULA USED FOR VISIT OF SOVIET PARLIAMENTARIANS IN 1974). IN ADDITION THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ARRANGE A SCHEDULE OF WORTHWHILE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING MEETINGS WITH INDIVIDUAL CONGRESSMEN. THE PROGRAM COULD ALSO INCLUDE TRAVEL ELSEWHERE IN THE U.S. IF DESIRED. IF YOU THINK THIS IS SUFFICIENT RECIPROCITY, YOU MAY OFFER IT TO BONEV, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT DATES AND DETAILS COULD BE WORKED OUT LATER. INGERSOLL

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